BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR BENEFICIAL WATER USE PERMIT 86507-841C BY ALCIDE L. RICHARDS

FINAL ORDER

The time period for filing exceptions, objections, or comments to the Proposal for Decision in this matter has expired. No timely written exceptions were received. Therefore, having given the matter full consideration, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation hereby accepts and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as contained in the May 17, 1994,

WHEREFORE, based upon the record herein, the Department makes the following:

ORDER

Proposal for Decision, and incorporates them herein by reference.

Subject to the terms, conditions, restrictions, and limitations listed below, Beneficial Water Use Permit 86507-s41C is hereby issued to Alcide L. Richards to appropriate 50 gallons per minute up to 80.65 acre-feet per year of the waters of Wisconsin Creek at a point in the SW\[a]NE\[a]SE\[a] of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 5 West, Madison County, Montana. The means of diversion shall be a headgate and a four-inch pipeline into an offstream reservoir with a capacity of 0.3 acre-feet to be used as a flow-through fish pond. The period of use shall be from January 1 to December 31, inclusive of each year. The priority date shall be July 8, 1993, at 10:45 a.m.

CASE # 86507

FILMED

- A. This permit is subject to all prior existing water rights in the source of supply. Further, this permit is subject to any final determination of existing water rights, as provided by Montana law.
- B. The water right granted by this permit is subject to the authority of the court appointed water commissioners, if and when appointed, to admeasure and distribute to the parties using water in the source of supply the water to which they are entitled. The Permittee shall pay his proportionate share of the fees and compensation and expenses, as fixed by the district court, incurred in the distribution of the waters granted in this Provisional Permit.
- C. This permit is subject to the condition that the Permittee shall install adequate flow metering devices in order to allow the flow rate of water diverted into and discharged from the pond to be recorded. The Permittee shall keep a written record of the flow rate and volume of all waters diverted, including the period of time, and shall submit said records by November 30th and/or upon request to the Water Resources Regional Office, 201 S. Wallace, Bozeman, MT 59715 PH: (406) 586-3136.
- D. This permit is subject to the condition that the Permittee shall initially fill, or if the pond has been drained for repairs or other reasons, refill the pond during high spring runoff periods only.
- E. Upon a change in ownership of all or any portion of this permit, the parties to the transfer shall file with the

- Department of Natural Resources and Conservation a Water Right Transfer Certificate, Form 608, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-424.
 - F. Pursuant to Administrative Rule of Montana 36.12.105, water may be used for emergency fire suppression purposes whenever the need arises.
 - G. The issuance of this permit by the Department shall not reduce the Permittee's liability for damages caused by Permittee's exercise of this permit, nor does the Department in issuing the permit in any way acknowledge liability for damage caused by the Permittee's exercise of this permit.

NOTICE

The Department's Final Order may be appealed in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act by filing a petition in the appropriate court within 30 days after service of the Final Order.

If a petition for judicial review is filed and a party to the proceeding elects to have a written transcription prepared as part of the record of the administrative hearing for certification to the reviewing district court, the requesting party must make arrangements with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for the ordering and payment of the written transcript. If no request is made, the Department will transmit a copy of the tape of the oral proceedings to the district court.

Dated this bar day of June, 1994.

Gary Friez, Administrator
Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation
Water Resources Division
1520 East 6th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620-2301
(406) 444-6605

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Final Order was duly served upon all parties of record at their address or addresses this \day of June, 1994 as follows:

Alcide L. Richards 12 Sunnyside Ln Sheridan, MT 59749

Dennis S. Nelson, Manager Ruby Valley Ranch Inc. P.O. Box 641 Sheridan, MT 59749

Russ Schulz Schulz Bros Ranch P.O. Box 108 Sheridan, MT 59749

Harry Dunham, President Three Creeks Water Co. P.O. Box 691 Sheridan, MT 59749-0691

Clerk of Court Madison County Courthouse Virginia City, MT 59755 Charles Wood Woods Three Creeks Ranches Ltd 3476 Hwy 287 Sheridan, MT 59749

Bob Lane
Department of Fish, Wildlife &
Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Scott Compton, Manager Bozeman Water Resources Regional Office 601 Nikles, Suite 2 Bozeman, MT 59715 (via electronic mail)

Vivian A. Lighthizer, Hearing Examiner Department of Natural Resources & Conservation 1520 E. 6th Ave. Helena, MT 59620-2301

Cindy G. Campbell
Hearings Unit Legal Secretary



BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR BENEFICIAL WATER USE PERMIT PROPOSAL FOR DECISION 86507-s41C BY ALCIDE L. RICHARDS

Pursuant to the Montana Water Use Act and to the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, a hearing was held in the above-entitled matter on April 19, 1994, in Sheridan, Montana, to determine whether a Beneficial Water Use Permit should be granted to Alcide L. Richards for the above Application under the criteria set forth in Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-311(1) and (5) (1993).

APPEARANCES

Alcide L. Richards (Applicant) appeared at the hearing pro se.

Objector Ruby Valley Ranch Inc. appeared at the hearing by and through Dennis S. Nelson.

Objector Schulz Bros. Ranch appeared at the hearing by and through Russ Schulz.

Objector Three Creeks Water Co. appeared at the hearing by and through its president, Harry Dunham.

Objector Woods Three Creeks Ranches Ltd. appeared at the hearing by and through Charles Wood.

Jan Mack, Water Resources Specialist in the Bozeman Water Resources Regional Office of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (Department), appeared at the hearing.

CASE # 86507

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Objector State of Montana, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP), did not appear at the hearing and had reached an agreement with Applicant prior to the hearing. A letter stating its intent to withdraw its objection was received by the Hearing Examiner on April 15, 1994.

EXHIBITS

No exhibits were offered by Applicant, Objectors, or the Department.

The Hearing Examiner takes official notice of T. W. Robinson, *Phreatophytes*, Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1423 (1958).

The Department file was made available for review by all parties who attended the hearing. There were no objections to any part of the Department file; therefore, it is entered into the record in its entirety.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

As a condition of the settlement agreement between Applicant and MDFWP, Applicant reduced the proposed appropriation to 50 gallons per minute up to 80.65 acre-feet per year.

An application for beneficial water use permit may only be altered after public notice of the application if the changes would not prejudice anyone, party or non-party, i.e. those persons who received notice of the application as originally proposed but did not object would not alter their position due to the amendments. See In re Applications W19282-s41E and W19284-s41E by Ed Murphy Ranches, Inc. To cause prejudice, an amendment

must suggest an increase in the burden on the source beyond that identified in the notification of the application as originally proposed. Such a suggestion of increased burden would be inherent in an amendment to expand the period of diversion, reduce return flows, increase the rate of diversion, increase the volume of water diverted, add an instream impoundment, or other such controlling parameters of the diversion. Conversely, there are many amendments that would not suggest an increase in the burden, such as a reduction of flow rate and volume diverted.

See In re Application 50272-g42M by Crisafulli. The unpublished change in this application cannot cause prejudice since the proposed flow rate and volume were reduced.

The Hearing Examiner, having reviewed the record in this matter and being fully advised in the premises, does hereby make the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Montana Code Ann. § 85-2-302 states in relevant part, "Except as otherwise provided in (1) through (3) of 85-2-306, a person may not appropriate water or commence construction of diversion, impoundment, withdrawal, or distribution works therefor except by applying for and receiving a permit from the department."
- 2. Alcide L. Richards duly filed the above-entitled application with the Department on July 8, 1993, at 10:45 a.m. (Department file.)
 - 3. Pertinent portions of the file were published in the

Madisonian, a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the source on September 16, 1993. Additionally, the Department served notice by first-class mail on individuals and public agencies which the Department determined might be interested in or affected by the application. Five timely objections were received by the Department. Applicant was notified of the objections by a letter from the Department dated December 13, 1993. (Department file.)

- Applicant seeks to appropriate 50 gallons per minute up to 80.65 acre-feet per year of the waters of Wisconsin Creek at a point in the SW4NE4SE4 of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 5 West, Madison County, Montana. The proposed means of diversion is a headgate and a four-inch pipeline into an offstream reservoir with a capacity of 0.3 acre-feet. The pond would have a surface area of 0.10 acre and would be approximately six feet deep at its deepest point. The pipeline would be buried so that the fresh creek water would be introduced into the bottom of the The proposed use is a nonconsumptive flow-through fish The proposed means to route the water back into Wisconsin Creek is an open channel. The proposed period of use is from January 1 to December 31, inclusive of each year. Applicant would also install a dry hydrant for use by the Sheridan Volunteer Fire Department in case of fire in the area. (Department file and testimony of Applicant.)
- 5. The pond site is in or near an old creek channel which was heavily wooded with cottonwoods and other phreatophytes

before Applicant cleared it. (Testimony of Applicant.)

Generally, an acre of phreatophytes would consume from 1.25 to 1.56 acre-feet or 407,313.75 to 508,327.56 gallons of water per year. (Phreatophytes at 25.) Thus 0.10 acre of phreatophytes would consume 0.125 to 0.156 acre-foot or 40,731.38 to 50,832.76 gallons of water per year. The pond would have an evaporation loss of approximately 10 inches per year. The surface of the pond would be 0.1 of an acre. (Testimony of Applicant and Department file.) Thus, there would be a loss of 27,045.63 gallons or 0.083 acre-foot of water per year by evaporation which is approximately 13,685.75 to 23,787.13 gallons of water less than that consumed by the phreatophytes. However, to ensure this water saving continues, the area must be kept clear of all weeds, willows, and other water consuming plants.

- 6. The groundwater at the pond site is quite high. The ground surface is always moist and sometimes water pools on the surface at the bottom of the pond. The groundwater level rises and falls in relation to the irrigation season. (Department file and testimony of Applicant.)
- 7. The pond is approximately 35 feet from Wisconsin Creek. The creek circles around behind the pond on the downhill side and back along the hillside. The slope of the ground is very steep, approximately 23.5 feet in 420 feet from the level above the pond to the level directly downhill below the pond.

The soil at the pond site is so porous and rocky that there will be seepage, but most of that water would return to the

- stream, considering the lay of the land. The remainder of the seepage would go into the alluvial aquifer evidenced by the high ground water table. (Department file and testimony of Applicant and Charles Wood.)
- 8. Applicant owns the property where the water will be put to use. (Department file.)
- 9. Ninety percent of the time, Wisconsin Creek flows at a rate of five cubic feet per second in October; four cubic feet per second in November; four cubic feet per second in December; three cubic feet per second in January; three cubic feet per second in February; three cubic feet per second in March; five cubic feet per second in April; 52 cubic feet per second in May; 51 cubic feet per second in June; 17 cubic feet per second in July; eight cubic feet per second in August; and six cubic feet per second in September. (Department file.)
- 10. The waters of Wisconsin Creek were decreed in 1901 and 1905. A ditch walker is assigned for the creek to admeasure and distribute the water. (Department records and testimony of Applicant, Harry Dunham, and Russ Schulz.)
- 11. All the Objectors object to the proposed project on the basis that it would adversely affect their existing water rights. All the Objectors object to the pond because it would set a precedent for others to install fish ponds. None of the Objectors would object if Applicant could guarantee the proposed use would be 100 percent nonconsumptive and the seepage would go back into the creek. (Testimony of Charles Wood, Dennis Nelson,

Harry Dunham, and Russ Schulz.)

- 12. Wisconsin Creek is over-decreed. Two-thirds of the decreed water right holders never receive any water because it isn't available. After July 15, there is not sufficient water to satisfy the existing decreed rights. Two weeks out of a normal year there is water available at flood stage, but that is the only time. At any given time in July and August, downstream where the irrigators are, stretches of the stream are completely devoid of water. Therefore, any measurements taken upstream at the Forest Service boundary are no indication of water availability further down the stream. (Testimony of Harry Dunham and Charles Wood.)
- 13. The Objectors all have water rights entered in the Temporary Preliminary Decree of Basin 41C issued by the Water Court. All have diversion points downstream from Applicant's proposed point of diversion with the exception of the two points of diversion in Section 12 belonging to Schulz Bros. Ranch. (Department records.)
- 14. MDFWP has an instream reservation for a flow rate of six cubic feet per second in Wisconsin Creek to protect the stream's fish, wildlife, and recreational resources. It also has an instream reservation for a flow rate of 40 cubic feet per second in the Ruby River, to which Wisconsin Creek is a tributary, for the same purpose. The entire Upper Missouri River basin, which includes Wisconsin Creek, Ruby River, Beaverhead River, Jefferson River, etc., has several instream flow

reservations granted to different agencies and public entities.

There are no unperfected permits in the source of supply.

(Department records.)

15. The Jefferson River basin, which includes Wisconsin Creek, has been closed to new appropriations of surface water with the exception of domestic, stock water, municipal, and nonconsumptive uses, and for impoundments to store water during high spring flows or for emergency appropriations as set forth in Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-113(3) (1993). Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-341 (1993).

The entire upper Missouri River basin, which includes the Jefferson River basin, has been closed during the period from April 16, 1993, until the final decrees have been issued in accordance with the provisions of Mont. Code Ann., Chapter 85, Part 2, to new appropriations of surface water with the exception of domestic, stock water, municipal, and nonconsumptive uses, and for impoundments to store water during high spring flows, or for temporary emergency appropriations as set forth in Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-113(3) (1993). Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-343 (1993).

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and upon the record in this matter, the Hearing Examiner makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department gave proper notice of the hearing, and all relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law or rule have been fulfilled; therefore, the matter was properly before the Hearing Examiner. See Findings of Fact 2 and 3.

- 2. The Department has jurisdiction over the subject matter herein, and all the parties hereto. See Finding of Fact 1.
- 3. The Department must issue a Beneficial Water Use Permit if the Applicant proves by a preponderance of evidence that the following criteria set forth in Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-311(1) and (5) (1993) are met:
 - (a) there are unappropriated waters in the source of supply at the proposed point of diversion:
 - (i) at times when the water can be put to the use proposed by the applicant;
 - (ii) in the amount the applicant seeks to appropriate; and
 - (iii) during the period in which the applicant seeks to appropriate, the amount requested is reasonably available;
 - (b) the water rights of a prior appropriator will not be adversely affected;
 - (c) the proposed means of diversion, construction, and operation of the appropriation works are adequate;
 - (d) the proposed use of water is a beneficial use;
 - (e) the proposed use will not interfere unreasonably with other planned uses or developments for which a permit has been issued or for which water has been reserved;
 - (f) the applicant has a possessory interest, or the written consent of the person with the possessory interest, in the property where the water is to be put to beneficial use;
 - (g) the water quality of a prior appropriator will not be adversely affected;
 - (h) the proposed use will be substantially in accordance with the classification of water set for the source of supply pursuant to 75-5-301(1); and
 - (i) the ability of a discharge permitholder to satisfy effluent limitations of a permit issued in accordance with Title 75, chapter 5, part 4, will not be adversely affected.
 - (5) To meet the preponderance of evidence standard in this section, the applicant, in addition to other evidence demonstrating that the criteria of subsection (1) have been met, shall

submit hydrologic or other evidence, including but not limited to water supply data, field reports, and other information developed by the applicant, the department, the U.S. geological survey, or the U.S. soil conservation service and other specific field studies.

- 4. An applicant is required to prove the criteria in subsections 85-2-311(1)(g) through (i) have been met only if a valid objection is filed. A valid objection must contain substantial credible information establishing to the satisfaction of the Department these criteria, as applicable, may not be met. For the criterion set forth in subsection 85-2-311(1)(h), only the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences or a local water quality district established under Title 7, chapter 13, part 45, may file a valid objection. Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-311(2) (1993). No valid objections relative to subsections 85-2-311(1)(g), (h), or (i) were filed for this application. Therefore, Applicant is not required to prove the criteria in subsections (1)(g), (h), or (i).
- 5. The proposed use, a nonconsumptive flow-through fish pond, is a beneficial use. Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-102(2) (1993).
- 6. "Nonconsumptive use" means a beneficial use of water that does not cause a reduction in the source of supply and in which substantially all of the water returns without delay to the source of supply, causing little or no disruption in stream conditions. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 85-2-340(5) and 85-2-342(3) (1993).
- 7. Applicant has a possessory interest, or the written consent of the person with the possessory interest, in the

property where the water is to be put to beneficial use. See Finding of Fact 8.

8. Applicant has proven by a preponderance of evidence there are unappropriated waters in the source of supply at the proposed point of diversion at times when the water can be put to the use proposed, in the amount Applicant seeks to appropriate, and that during the period in which Applicant seeks to appropriate, the amount requested is reasonably available. See Finding of Fact 9.

It is clear from the decreed rights and the reservation on Wisconsin Creek and testimony of Objectors that Wisconsin Creek is over appropriated. It is also clear from the record that water is available for new consumptive uses only during spring runoff. See Findings of Fact 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

However, the proposed use in this matter is nonconsumptive.

Applicant has provided evidence that the loss by evaporation will be offset by the removal of the phreatophytes. See Finding of Fact 5. It also appears that since there is a steep slope in the terrain where the pond is located, most of the seepage will return directly to the stream and the remainder will go into the alluvial aquifer to return to the stream in those stretches where the stream gains from the alluvial aquifer. See Findings of

^{&#}x27;Harry Dunham testified there are stretches of the stream that are devoid of water; therefore, the stream must be a losing and gaining stream. If it were not, the stream would be completely devoid of water instead of having "stretches" that were devoid. The stream must gain water from the alluvial aquifer to have those stretches that have water.

Fact 6, 7, and 12. Since the water is physically available at Applicant's proposed point of diversion and will be returned to the stream to be available for the downstream appropriators' diversion, once the pond is filled, there are waters in the source of supply which are unappropriated within the meaning contemplated by the Water Use Act.

However, the initial filling of the pond is consumptive. In order to fill the pond when there are unappropriated waters and comply with the closure, Applicant must fill the pond during high spring runoff. See Findings of Fact 9, 14, and 15.

An underlying policy of the Montana Water Use Act is the maximization of the use of state waters. See Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-101(3) (1993). A proposed diversion such as this proposed project is well in keeping with the stated purpose, for it allows double use of the same water; an upstream nonconsumptive use which restores the creek to its natural volume and thereby provides for the prior consumptive rights which lie downstream.

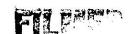
- 9. Applicant has proven by a preponderance of evidence the proposed means of diversion, construction, and operation are adequate. See Finding of Fact 4.
- 10. Applicant has proven by a preponderance of evidence the water rights of prior appropriators will not be adversely affected. See Findings of Fact 5, 7, and 9.

Some of the evidence produced at the hearing by Objectors was based on a fear of similar applications in the future. The evidence indicates there are lands in the vicinity of Wisconsin

Creek that are in the process of being subdivided. Objectors fear that the instant application should be denied based on a potential proliferation of similar applications in the future. This "opening of the floodgates" argument is of no avail and the evidence relevant thereto is not material to this proceeding. Nor can any alleged insignificant loss threatened by Applicant's proposed use be made significant by this argument, that is, in conjunction with Applicant's project, any new projects would, by the combined effect, cause adverse effect. Applicant has proven no significant loss and cannot be burdened with future consumptive uses that might occur as a result of future projects. See In re Application 28224-s411 by Loomis and Edenfield; In re Application 25534-76H by Griff.

11. Applicant has proven by a preponderance of evidence the proposed use will not interfere unreasonably with other planned uses or developments for which a permit has been issued or for which water has been reserved. See Findings of Fact 5, 6, 7, and 9.

The Department has the authority to condition a permit provided such conditions are necessary to satisfy the criteria listed in Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-311 (1993). Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-312(1) (1993). Here Applicant proposes to fill the pond initially from Wisconsin Creek, a consumptive use in a partially closed basin where MDFWP has a reservation. In order to prevent adverse effect and unreasonable interference with a reservation and comply with Mont. Code Ann. §§ 85-2-341 and 85-2-343 (1993),



the pond can only be filled during high spring runoff periods and the permit must be so conditioned.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Hearing Examiner makes the following:

PROPOSED ORDER

Subject to the terms, conditions, restrictions, and limitations listed below, Beneficial Water Use Permit 86507-s41C is hereby issued to Alcide L. Richards to appropriate 50 gallons per minute up to 80.65 acre-feet per year of the waters of Wisconsin Creek at a point in the SW\(\frac{1}{4}\)NE\(\frac{1}{4}\)SE\(\frac{1}{4}\) of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 5 West, Madison County, Montana. The means of diversion shall be a headgate and a four-inch pipeline into an offstream reservoir with a capacity of 0.3 acre-feet to be used as a flow-through fish pond. The period of use shall be from January 1 to December 31, inclusive of each year. The priority date shall be July 8, 1993, at 10:45 a.m.

- A. This permit is subject to all prior existing water rights in the source of supply. Further, this permit is subject to any final determination of existing water rights, as provided by Montana law.
- B. The water right granted by this permit is subject to the authority of the court appointed water commissioners, if and when appointed, to admeasure and distribute to the parties using water in the source of supply the water to which they are entitled. The Permittee shall pay his proportionate share of the fees and compensation and expenses, as fixed by the district court,

incurred in the distribution of the waters granted in this Provisional Permit.

- C. This permit is subject to the condition that the Permittee shall install adequate flow metering devices in order to allow the flow rate of water diverted into and discharged from the pond to be recorded. The Permittee shall keep a written record of the flow rate and volume of all waters diverted, including the period of time, and shall submit said records by November 30th and/or upon request to the Water Resources Regional Office, 201 S. Wallace, Bozeman, MT 59715 PH: (406) 586-3136.
- D. This permit is subject to the condition that the

 Permittee shall initially fill, or if the pond has been drained

 for repairs or other reasons, refill the pond during high spring

 runoff periods only.
- E. Upon a change in ownership of all or any portion of this permit, the parties to the transfer shall file with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation a Water Right Transfer Certificate, Form 608, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-424.
- F. Pursuant to Administrative Rule of Montana 36.12.105, water may be used for emergency fire suppression purposes whenever the need arises.
- G. The issuance of this permit by the Department shall not reduce the Permittee's liability for damages caused by Permittee's exercise of this permit, nor does the Department in issuing the permit in any way acknowledge liability for damage

caused by the Permittee's exercise of this permit.

NOTICE

This proposal may be adopted as the Department's final decision unless timely exceptions are filed as described below. Any party adversely affected by this Proposal for Decision may file exceptions with the Hearing Examiner. The exceptions must be filed and served upon all parties within 20 days after the proposal is mailed. Parties may file responses to any exception filed by another party. The responses must be filed within 20 days after service of the exception and copies must be sent to all parties. No new evidence will be considered.

No final decision shall be made until after the expiration of the time period for filing exceptions, and due consideration of timely exceptions, responses, and briefs.

Dated this $17\frac{40}{2}$ day of May, 1994.

Vivian A. Lighthizer, Hearing Examiner

Department of Natural Resources

and Conservation 1520 East 6th Avenue Helena, Montana 59620

(406) 444-6615

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Proposal for Decision was duly served upon all parties of record at their address or addresses this _\tag{7}\day of May, 1994, as follows:

Alcide L. Richards 12 Sunnyside Ln Sheridan, MT 59749

Ruby Valley Ranch Inc. % Dennis S. Nelson, Mgr. P.O. Box 641 Sheridan, MT 59749

Schulz Bros Ranch % Russ Schulz P.O. Box 108 Sheridan, MT 59749

Three Creeks Water Co. % Harry Dunham, Pres. P.O. Box 691 Sheridan, MT 59749-0691

Clerk of Court Madison County Courthouse Virginia City, MT 59755 Woods Three Creeks Ranches Ltd % Charles Wood 3476 Hwy 287 Sheridan, MT 59749

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks % Bob Lane P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701

Scott Compton, Manager Bozeman Water Resources Regional Office 201 South Wallace Bozeman, MT 59715 (via electronic mail)

Cindy G. Campbell Hearings Unit Legal Secretary